

Sanctuary Advisory Council

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Honolulu International Airport

Interisland Conference Center, 7th Floor

Final Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

SAC Members Present: James Coon, Elizabeth Corbin, Margaret Dupree, William Friedl, Tom Friel (for John Reghi), Eric Gilman, Walter Haas, Louis Herman, Greg Kaufman (for Mike Stanton), Cindy Knapman, Jack Laufer, Teresa Leicher, William Lennan, Richard McCarty, Naomi McIntosh, Patty Miller, Paul Nachtigall, Jerry Norris, Richard Poirier, Glenn Soma, Jeff Walters, Reginald White

SAC Alternates Present: Jeff Kuwabara, Marc Lammers

Excused: Sallie Beavers, Nancy Daschbach, Isaac Harp, June Harrigan Lum, John Reghi, Michael Stanton, Michael Tosatto, Athline Clark, Paul Nahoia Lucas, Robert Smith, Dwight Mathers (for Mike Tosatto), Wallace Patch (for Isaac Harp)

Others Present:

HIHWNMS: Christine Brammer, Claire Cappelle, Carol Carey, David Mattila, Jean Souza

NMFS-PIAO: David Nichols

PUBLIC: Dwayne Meadows

Distributed Materials:

- Final agenda
- SAC Action Item Status Report (January meeting)
- SAC Resolution for SAC Coordinator Kellie Cheung
- Acting Sanctuary Manager's Report
- State Co-Manager's Report
- Conservation Subcommittee Report
- Education Subcommittee Report
- Research Subcommittee Report
- Honolulu County Report
- Kauai County Reports (January and April)
- Maui County Report
- Federal Register Proposed Rules dated January 30, 2002
- Federal Register Notice dated March 19, 2002
- NMS Research Coordinators Meeting Summary
- NMS Advisory Council Chairs and Coordinators Meeting Workshop Report
- Sanctuary Activity Calendar (January – May)
- Research Report "Diving Behavior of Humpback Whales on their Hawaiian Breeding Grounds: Implications for Anthropogenic Threats"
- Commission on Ocean Policy (website download)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by SAC Chair James Coon at 10:10 a.m.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Accept the minutes from the last meeting Motion carried

Public Forum

Mr. Coon asked the members of the public to introduce themselves and asked for public comments. Dwayne Meadows, Pacific Whale Foundation, expressed his disappointment that the Education Subcommittee had not called a meeting for the Naturalist Training Working Group that he volunteered for at the January meeting. He also commented on the Draft Revised Management Plan, stating that the transition between the old and new plan was not well defined. He also commented that there is no explanation on why new items are in the revised plan.

Reports and Updates**SAC Chair**

Mr. Coon reviewed the status of the January SAC Meeting Action Items (see attachment 1). He asked SAC Boater Outreach Working Group Chair Reg White if he had any updates for the SAC. Mr. White reported that he had signed up one volunteer, SAC Alternate Greg Kaufman. The group is waiting on a response from the Coast Guard Auxiliary. The Coast Guard Auxiliary can assist in providing advance notice to the public by helping to distribute flyers on whale approach regulations.

Acting Sanctuary Manager Naomi McIntosh gave a brief update to the SAC on the Kona Blue Water Farms, stating that Margaret Dupree also responded to the comments and that NMFS has not yet seen a draft EA for this project. William Lennan added that there is another proposed open ocean aquaculture project for tuna just north of Kawaihae Harbor on the Big Island.

Mr. Coon also announced that Maui County Representative John White has resigned because of work-related reasons. He welcomed SAC alternate Richard McCarty who has agreed to serve as the primary SAC Representative for Maui County.

Acting Sanctuary Manager's Report

Acting Sanctuary Manager Naomi McIntosh went over the Acting Sanctuary Manager's Report (see Attachment 2). She commented that SAC participation in Sanctuary events has been outstanding. Twenty-two individual primary SAC members and three alternates participated in various Sanctuary sponsored events. She stated that we probably have one of the most active SACs in the sanctuary program. Ms. McIntosh asked Claire Cappelletti, Program Manager for the Kihei Facility Project at the Maui headquarters, to provide a brief update on the construction planning for a new multi-purpose building. Ms. Cappelletti gave a brief update on the progress and stated that by the next SAC meeting, she will have more definite plans to present to the SAC. She also stated that the vendor to design the new displays for the Education Center will be in Hawaii soon and the Sanctuary will be moving forward with these designs based on last year's input from the SAC Education Subcommittee.

Ms. McIntosh reported that the Honolulu Advertiser NIE insert was a great success. SAC member Patty Miller presented it to teachers on the KidScience program on February 19 and 26, with the Sanctuary Research and Rescue Advisor David Mattila appearing on both broadcasts. The Sanctuary has been gathering input on corrections to the insert and appreciates the comments. The Sanctuary chose a winner for the whale slogan contest: a fifth grade class at Aliamanu Elementary School with the slogan—See a tail...Save the whale. The slogan contest was a Sanctuary / Kid Science event.

Sanctuary Co-Manager's Report

State Co-Manager Jeff Walters went over the Sanctuary Co-Manager's Report (see Attachment 3). He commented that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) approved the reauthorization of the sanctuary with the help of SAC OHA Representative Jerry Norris. Dr. Walters gave an update on the legislative resolution, which has passed out of one committee and is now in another. He thanked SAC member Eric Gilman for helping initiate the resolution and added that another resolution is in the Senate on the Watchable Wildlife Program. Dr. Walters reminded the SAC that there are several permitting actions required for the open ocean farms. He can provide the SAC with a list of these permits. Dr. Walters stated that it would be a good opportunity for the SAC to weigh in during the permitting process. He ended his report by stating that the next time the SAC meets, the whale season will be over and he wanted to echo the thanks to SAC members for all their participation. He also added that Mr. Mattila has been a really important factor this season.

Sub-committee Reports**Conservation:**

Conservation Subcommittee Chair Eric Gilman provided an update on item 3 of the Conservation Subcommittee Report (see Attachment 4): The Committee was to draft a resolution commending enforcement agencies for their work. The Committee had difficulty getting details on what the enforcement agencies cover during the whale season. It was also pointed out that there was no section on approach regulations on the Sanctuary website and nothing specific on the endangered species regulations. Ms. McIntosh stated that she will look into this and will provide an update to the SAC at the next meeting. Lou Herman added that due to homeland security, the Coast Guard might need to reduce their support on enforcement issues related to humpback whales.

Research:

Research Subcommittee Chair Paul Nachtigall passed out a revised report (see Attachment 5) and summarized key issues from the report. He pointed out that additional SAC members are needed on the Research Subcommittee. It was requested that further discussion on the Kona Blue Water Farm be placed under New Business. Ms. McIntosh was asked to give an update on the research coordinator position. She replied that this year it was a contract position due to the ceiling on federal hiring but that the Sanctuary now has permission to move forward to hire a full time research coordinator as a staff position. There is a new process in place to take applications online and she is not sure how long it will take, but is optimistic that the process will be started within a few weeks. Mr. Kaufman asked that the SAC consider a commendation for Mr. Mattila under New Business.

Education:

The Education Subcommittee report discussion (see attachment 6) was delayed until later in the meeting when Chair Patty Miller would be present.

County Reports:

In addition to the written Honolulu County report (see Attachment 7), Bill Friedl commented on the positive impact of the increase in Sanctuary events on Oahu.

Walter Haas commented on his Kauai County report (see Attachment 8) that this year's Family Fair attendance was down due to bad weather. He also passed out a book of event photos and a copy of the Educators' Workshop handbook.

Richard McCarty amended the Maui County report (see Attachment 9) to add that the volunteer featured in the report, Papa Jim, had recently passed away. Mr. McCarty also mentioned how impressed he is with the enthusiasm at the Maui headquarters.

Working Group Reports**Vessel Working Group:**

Mr. Friedl reported that the SAC Vessel Collisions Working Group is waiting on the National Marine Sanctuary Program to take action first. Marc Lammers has created a questionnaire to distribute to all mariners. He asked SAC members to take copies for distribution. At the suggestion of the group, he will also send the form out in an electronic format. Dr. Walters mentioned that the House Resolution addressed the issue of vessel strikes as well.

Naturalist Training:

Discussion on the Working Group on Naturalist Training was moved to New Business. A discussion will be held to determine who should serve on the group and to find a Chair.

Management Plan Review Update

Ms. McIntosh gave a preview of the powerpoint presentation, which will open the public meetings. Comments from the SAC on the presentation included using a bigger font on the statement that there would be no new boundary or regulatory changes proposed. Ms. McIntosh stated that the Sanctuary would need the SAC's help in drafting the final plan. The SAC should expect a quick turn around with limited time for SAC review. The target date for submitting to the governor is early August. Dr. Walters added that when Jean Michel Cousteau and Sanctuary Foundation Executive Director Lori Arguelles visited Governor Cayetano last month to discuss the Sanctuary reauthorization, the Governor stated that he saw no reason to "not reauthorize." Dr. Walters also assured the SAC that there was a general consensus among the State that we should let the boundary issue stand for now and give it more time before making changes.

Ms. McIntosh informed the SAC that the Sanctuary budgeted for expenses related to the Management Plan Review, including printing, staff travel and a coordinator.

Terry Leicher stated that the Big Island Sanctuary Whale Count is good but asked when they would get the support that the other islands have.

Discussion on the upcoming public meetings:

Ms. McIntosh announced that there would be one more training session with SAC and staff who will be participating in the upcoming public meetings. Mr. Friedl commented that the Sanctuary should be up front and tell the audience what programs will be continued and what will be developed for the various islands. It was pointed out that the Sanctuary needs to have the inter-agency MOU's and agreements available at the meetings.

During the public meetings, Ms. McIntosh explained that facilitators should not directly address controversial subjects brought up during the small group discussions, but rather ask them what they specifically want the Sanctuary to do and add that to their comments. She also stated that there would be floater around to handle difficult questions.

Lou Herman stated that the Sanctuary may want to give some thought about the delisting of the humpback whale in the next five years. Ms. McIntosh responded that if the issue of delisting comes up, it could be included and addressed in the final plan. Mr. Kaufman asked if the original Management Plan would be available during the upcoming meetings. Ms. McIntosh responded that the Sanctuary doesn't have many available and would rather have the public concentrate on the new draft since that's where comments are needed.

2002 Sanctuary Science and Rescue Activities Presentation

Sanctuary Science and Rescue Advisor David Mattila provided a summary of the Sanctuary's activities during the season. A discussion followed on the calf mortality rates in Hawaiian waters during the current 2002 season.

Unfinished Business

SAC draft resolution commending work of agencies involved with enforcement in the Sanctuary:

Conservation Subcommittee will continue to work on the draft. Action deferred to next meeting

Prioritize conducting a Threat Assessment Study and Workshop:

Ms. McIntosh stated that this project will be proposed in the next fiscal year (2003) budget.

Education Subcommittee Report:

Chair Patty Miller discussed the Education Subcommittee Report, adding that the response from the Honolulu Advertiser insert on the Hawaii Sanctuary has been wonderful. She brought the collection of posters from the winners of the slogan contest.

Shark Feeding in Hawaii:

Dr. Walters gave an update on shark feeding in Hawaii. He stated that the Senate bill banning shark feeding is now on the House side and it looks like they will pass legislation to ban shark feeding in state waters. It was pointed out that there is now an operation getting started in Maui.

SAC Charter:

Ms. McIntosh gave an update on the SAC Charter, which has now been reviewed by Sanctuary headquarters and is with the Director for signature.

New Business

Draft Revised Management Plan comments:

Mr. Nachtigall discussed the comments from the Research Subcommittee (see attachment 5).

ACTION: On the comment regarding section RM-2 Activity, the committee will re-address this issue and resubmit comments to the SAC for approval by the Chair.

Comments stand as written in the Conservation Subcommittee report (see attachment 4) and the Education Subcommittee report (see attachment 6):

MOTION: Mr. Poirier proposed that the SAC adopt the Draft Management Plan comments of the Education and Conservation Subcommittees as amended by this group and allow the Research Subcommittee to finish up their comments. Motion passed.

SAC Meeting Schedule:

The remaining meetings for the SAC during 2002 were scheduled as follows:

June 13, Thursday.

September 9, Monday

November 14, Thursday

SAC Elections:

EXECUTIVE ACTION by Mr. Coon to defer the 2002 SAC Elections until September 2002 if those SAC members whose terms are coming up are agreeable. Applications will be sent out in June and after selection process, the new members will be present at the November meeting.

Naturalist Training Working Group:

Mr. Poirier reported that the following members and public have volunteered to form a Naturalist Training Working Group: SAC members (Teresa Leicher, Chair; Mr. Poirier, Dr. Haas, and Mr. Kaufman); non-SAC: (Jean Souza (HIHWNMS), Merle Kaufman and Dwayne Meadows (Pacific Whale Foundation), and Hannah Bernard (Maui Ocean Center). Funding is requested for two face-to-face working group meetings, with at least one of the meetings to occur before the next SAC meeting. The SAC discussed the confusion over how this working group was formed during the last SAC meeting and the need for protocols on how to establish working groups and the use of outside people. It was pointed out that if the issue were to deal with policy, it should not go to a working group with outside opinions.

MOTION: Mr. Friedl proposed that the SAC table the Naturalist Certification Training issue until the September meeting. Motion failed for lack of a second.

ACTION: The SAC decided to continue to pursue a working group to address Naturalist Training. Ms. Leicher was appointed the Working Group Chair.

Commendation:

MOTION: Liz Corbin proposed a resolution to be drafted to commend David Mattila's research efforts subject to review and approval by the Chair. Motion passed.

Website:

The SAC discussed the issue of the Sanctuary regulations not being on the website. Chair stated there was no need for a motion—the SAC should just ask the Sanctuary to do it.

Proposed House Testimony letter in support of HR38 and HCR69:

MOTION: Mr. Lennan proposed that the SAC adopt the House Testimony letter as written, subject to review and approval by the Chair, with the following revisions, 1) Include a brief introduction on the SAC, 2) Use SAC letterhead, 3) Correct typographical errors, 4) Remove sentence on population numbers. Motion carried.

Aquaculture Activities:

The SAC continued discussion of aquaculture activities throughout the state. It was noted that a venture in Ewa on Oahu has been using submerged cages to raise moi. The Big Island Kona Blue Water Farms proposal includes the use of both submerged and floating cages in 9 acres at Keahole. Another venture being planned for Kawaihae Harbor has proposed floating cages for tuna raising in 16 acres with an 80 acre footprint. Both Big Island activities would be within Sanctuary waters.

ACTION: Mr. Gilman stated that the Conservation Subcommittee will look into the need for a standard policy regarding aquaculture/mariculture in sanctuary waters—perhaps addressing zoning plans to designate no development areas within the Sanctuary when humpbacks are most abundant.

Public Forum

Mr. Meadows commented that he believed the last motion passed by the SAC did not have approval of amendments first. Mr. Coon thanked Mr. Meadows for his comments.

Announcements

NWHI Coral Reef Ecosystem Public Scoping Meetings begin tonight in Waianae and will be held on all major islands throughout the state.

The Ocean Commission will be here in Hawaii on May 13-14. Copies of agendas are on their website

Additional flyers are available for the HIHWNMS Draft Revised Management Plan Review meetings.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Attachment 1`

**Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale
National Marine Sanctuary
SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

APRIL 2002 SAC MEETING ACTION ITEMS

Status Report

ACTION: Sanctuary Acting Manager is requested to find out why there is no section on approach regulations on the Sanctuary website and nothing specific on the endangered species regulations.

STATUS:

ACTION: The SAC draft resolution to commend work of agencies involved with enforcement in the Sanctuary.

STATUS: Action deferred to next meeting. Sanctuary will provide information on what the enforcement agencies cover during the whale season to the Conservation Subcommittee. The subcommittee will continue to work on the draft.

ACTION: Draft Revised Management Plan comments from Research Subcommittee

STATUS: On the comment regarding section RM-2 Activity, the committee will re-address this issue and resubmit comments to the SAC for approval by the Chair.

ACTION: **Defer the 2002 SAC Elections until September.**

STATUS: Applications will be sent out in June and after selection process, the new members will be present at the November meeting..

ACTION: **Naturalist Training Working Group formed with SAC members (Teresa Leicher, Dick Poirier, Walter Haas, and Greg Kaufman); non-SAC: (Jean**

Souza (HIHWNMS), Merle Kaufman and Dwayne Meadows (Pacific Whale Foundation), and Hannah Bernard (Maui Ocean Center).

STATUS: Funding requested for two face-to-face meetings, with one meeting occurring before next SAC meeting. Ms. Leicher will chair the working group.

ACTION: SAC to prepare a resolution, subject to review and approval by the Chair, commending the work of David Mattila during this past whale season.

STATUS:

ACTION: SAC adopted the House Testimony letter as written with the following revisions, subject to review and approval by the Chair: 1) Include a brief introduction on the SAC, 2) Use SAC letterhead, 3) Correct typographical errors, 4) Remove sentence on population numbers.

STATUS: Letter drafted, signed and sent.

ACTION: The Conservation Subcommittee will look into the need for a standard policy regarding aquaculture/mariculture in sanctuary waters—perhaps addressing zoning plans to designate no development areas within the Sanctuary where humpbacks are most abundant.

STATUS:

Attachment 2

SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL Acting Sanctuary Manager's Report April 9, 2002

National Marine Sanctuary Program Updates

- A NMSP Researchers Coordinators meeting was held from January 28 to February 1, 2002 in Charleston, South Carolina. Claire Cappelle represented the HIHWNMS.
- A NMSP SAC Coordinators meeting was held from February 5 to 8, 2002 in the Florida Keys NMS.
- A NMSP Education and Communication Meeting was held from March 18th to March 22 in the Florida Keys NMS. Jean Souza represented the HIHWNMS.

HIHWNMS Update

January 2002

- Ocean Count Site Leader training was held on Kauai on January 19th and on the Big Island on January 20th.
- The first of the three Ocean Counts took place on January 26, 2002. Over 700 volunteers participated on the islands of O'ahu, Kaua'i and the Big Island.

February 2002

- Joylynn Oliveira represented the Sanctuary as a naturalist and a Native Hawaiian language interpreter on an educational whale watch with the Konawaena Immersion School Program, a school that teaches their curriculum in the Hawaiian language. Seventeen 5th, 6th and 7th graders attended the two-hour whale watch.
- 20 students from the Kamehameha schools visited the Sanctuary and learned about whales and the Native Hawaiian Fishpond that borders the Sanctuary property.
- The Sanctuary started off its annual season of Whale Discovery 2002. Twenty first grade students from King Kamehameha III Elementary School and two teachers attended a

complimentary whale watch aboard the Windjammer. The program is in partnership with Windjammer Cruises, Maui.

- Claire Cappellet and Naomi McIntosh met with staff from WASC to begin discussions on construction of the new multi purpose building.
- Sanctuary staff in Maui attended a Kiwanis Club meeting and gave a presentation on humpback whales and the Sanctuary.
- Sanctuary co-manager, Jeffrey Walters, attended Hawai'i's Watchable Wildlife Program steering committee meeting. The new committee will develop a wildlife viewing guide for Hawaii. The guide will include whale-watching sights in the Sanctuary.
- Students from the Princess Nahi'ena'ena school group visited the Sanctuary Headquarters site on Maui.
- Sanctuary staff attended and staffed a booth at Whale Day. Whale Day is sponsored by the Pacific Whale Foundation.
- The Honolulu Advertiser Newspaper in Education special insert highlighting Hawai'i's Humpback Whales was distributed on February 19, 2002.
- The Department of Education's Kidscience program broadcasted two specials featuring humpback whales. Science and Rescue Coordinator, David Mattila was a featured guest on both shows, which aired February 19th and February 26th. The February 19th program was set up to go along with the release of the Honolulu Advertiser Insert mentioned above.
- David Mattila gave a lecture in Waimea (Big Island) on "The Freeing of Entangled Whales" as part of the Big Island lecture series.
- Jean Souza met with Kauai Community College students enrolled in the Hawaiian Environmental Science Class.
- Pukalani Elementary school students participated in the Windjammer/Sanctuary whale watch as part of the Whale Discovery 2002 project
- Joylynn Oliveira gave a presentation in Hawaiian to the high school students at Lahainaluna High School on the sanctuary program.
- David Mattila responded to several calls related to humpback whales including a humpback whale entangled in fishing line and a humpback whale calf in distress.
- Kathy Davenport and her class from Maui Community College conducted a field trip at the Maui site for their Ethnobotany class.
- Imua Rehab students and adults spent Wednesday morning at the Maui site learning about the sanctuary program and participating in interactive educational segments on humpback whales.

March 2002

- The Sanctuary hosted a gathering for marine mammal researchers from Alaska and Hawaii at the Maui Sanctuary site. The Alaskan researchers were in Hawaii to attend a disentanglement workshop presented by sanctuary science and rescue coordinator David Mattila.
- On March 5, the Maui site began a lecture series entitled, "45 Ton Talks".
- Joylynn Oliveira and Christine Brammer attended a whale watch in Honolulu with 100 students from Farrington High School. Joylynn did a presentation on the Sanctuary, humpback whales, and the relationship between humpback whales and the Native Hawaiians.
- Joylynn Oliveira and Christine Brammer visited a 4th grade class at Waimalu schools. Over one hundred students learned about the Sanctuary and humpback whales. The teachers and students became interested in the Sanctuary and humpbacks from the Honolulu Advertiser newspaper insert.
- The Sanctuary hosted a whalewatch on the Navatek for students from Ms. Laura Fukumoto's 5th grade class at Aliamanu Elementary School on March 13th. The students won the Sanctuary and KidScience slogan contest. The winning slogan was "See a Tail...Save the Whale". Patty Miller coordinated and attended the whalewatch. The students learned about the contest through Patty's television show "KidScience".

- On Friday, March 15th, Jean Michel Cousteau visited the Aliamanu Elementary students in their classroom. The students did a presentation for Jean Michel. Patty Miller helped organize the visit and was presented an award by Jean Michel from the Sanctuary in recognition of her outstanding efforts in supporting the education and outreach efforts of the Sanctuary.
- 5th grade students from Haleakala Waldorf School took part in the Windjammer Whale Watch with Sanctuary staff and volunteers.
- Na Kupuna (Hawaiian elders) spent Thursday morning at the Maui site. They participated in a "talk story" with sanctuary staff Jerry Stowell and Joylynn Oliveira about humpback whales, other marine mammals in sanctuary waters and traditional Hawaiian practices.
- The Sanctuary hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Whale Watch on Oahu.
- David Mattila responded to a call regarding a humpback whale calf that appeared abandoned. After a few hours of observation, the calf was killed by tiger sharks.
- Maui staff attended whale watches that were sponsored by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (NMSF) and Trilogy Excursions in honor of Jean Michel Cousteau.
- The 5th Annual Family Ocean Fair at Kilauea Lighthouse, Kauai, was held on Saturday, March 16th. A few thousand fair-goers turned out to hear ocean explorer and environmental spokesperson Jean Michel Cousteau speak, to visit interactive exhibits by ocean-related agencies and Kauai-based nonprofits, to participate in an educator's workshop, and to attend a lecture series involving David Mattila, Dr. Steve Gittings from the National Program, and staff from the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve.
- The Sanctuary Headquarters in Kihei, Maui hosted a lecture by Dr. Steve Gittings entitled "The Last Buffalo Hunt".

Management Plan

- Sanctuary staff continued to planning for the management plan review meetings, which will be held on six islands from May 1st to 21st, 2002.
- On February 20, 2002 HIHWNMS Staff, NWHI Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve Staff, and HIHWNMS SAC volunteers attended Management plan facilitation training in Honolulu taught by Ann Walton, Management Plan Coordinator for Gulf of the Farallones.
- Annie Reisewitz began working in the Honolulu Sanctuary office. She has been hired to coordinate the public meetings for the management plan review. She reported to the Oahu Sanctuary office on February 20th.
- The State of the Sanctuary report for Hawai'i was completed and copies are being distributed.
- The draft management plan was completed and is now available for public review. The Federal Register notice of availability and initiation of review of the draft revised management plan for the Sanctuary was published March 19, 2002. The comment period will remain open until May 24th, 2002.
- Joylynn Oliveira, Naomi McIntosh, and Jeffrey Walters briefed OHA on the Management Plan Review. The OHA Land Committee voted unanimously to endorse the reauthorization of the humpback whale sanctuary.
- The SAC Conservation Subcommittee met to discuss their comments on the Natural Resource Action Plan.
- The SAC Research Subcommittee met to discuss their comments on the Research Action Plan.
- The SAC Education Subcommittee will meet on April 3rd to discuss their comments on the Education Action Plan.
- Jean Michel Cousteau, Robert Lyn Nelson and Lori Arguelles met with the Governor to discuss the Sanctuary and the NWHI Coral Reef Ecosystem Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve on March 17th. The Governor expressed general support for the reauthorization of the Sanctuary.

- Naomi McIntosh, Jeffrey Walters, and Annie Reisewitz attended the Western Pacific Fisheries Management Council Meeting and did a presentation on the management plan review process.
- On March 21st, Naomi McIntosh, Jeffrey Walters, Annie Resiewitz and Joylynn Oliveira attended the Office of Hawaiian Affairs board meeting to provide testimony for a resolution to support the reauthorization of the Sanctuary from OHA. The resolution passed with a 7 (yes) to 2 (no) vote.
- Two identical resolutions (HR38 and HCR69), supporting Sanctuary reauthorization have been introduced in the State House of Representatives. On March 22nd, Naomi McIntosh and Jeffrey Walters attended the hearing on the resolution to support the reauthorization of the Sanctuary.
- Oahu Sanctuary staff prepared and completed the mailout of the draft management plan, the State of the Sanctuary Report, and the management plan brochure and insert reminding people that public meetings on the management plan will begin on May 1, 2002.

Other Activities

- January 22 to 24th, Naomi McIntosh attended the Compass Meeting in Monterey, California. The meeting was held to discuss Marine Reserves.
- January 28th and 29th, NMFS Office of Protected Species held a meeting for permitted Humpback Whale Researchers in Lahaina, Maui.
- Science of Oil Spill meeting was held February 4th to 8th, 2002. The meeting is coordinated by NOAA/HAZMAT. Claire Cappelle and Naomi McIntosh attended the training.
- February 19th to 21st, Naomi McIntosh attended a Leadership Meeting for the NMSP in Savannah Georgia.
- March 11th to 14th, Naomi McIntosh attended a Leadership Meeting and Coastal Program Managers Meeting in Washington, DC.
- Naomi McIntosh met with Representative Patsy Mink and Representative Neil Abercrombie in DC. Naomi also met with staff members of Senator Inouye, Senator Akaka and Senator Holling's office in a joint briefing during the week of March 11th.

Sanctuary Media Coverage

January 2002

- 28 2002 Humpback Whale Count, Honolulu Advertiser
- 27 Whales can count on volunteers, The Garden Island
- 25 1400 eyes count 1200 humpbacks, Honolulu Advertiser
- 26 Dead humpback washes ashore, Honolulu Advertiser
- 24 Whales death a mystery, The Garden Island
- 22 Whale research to speak tonight, Kealahou Hawaii, Honolulu Advertiser
- 15 David Mattila and Naomi McIntosh interviewed on morning show for KITV 6
- 9 Volunteering for the whales, Midweek
- 6 You can see humpbacks from shore, Honolulu Advertiser

February 2002

- 28 Entangled Whale proving elusive, Honolulu Advertiser
- 28 Tangled-up humpback gives rescuers the slip, Maui News
- 28 Humpback Whale count up, The Garden Island
- 27 Humpback whales featured on KGMB 9 News, Claire Cappelle and David Mattila interviewed.
- 26 David Mattila featured guest on Kid Science
- 26 Humpback whales present, accounted for, Maui News
- 25 On the watch for whales, Honolulu Advertiser
- 19 Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale Newspaper in Education Insert, Honolulu Advertiser
- 19 David Mattila featured guest on Kid Science
- 16 Tangling with whales, Maui News
- 8 The delicate balance of humpback whales, The Garden Island

- 7 Marine Debris a threat to whales
- 6 A good whale year? Well, maybe, more or less, Honolulu Advertiser
- 4 The delicate balance of humpback whales, The Garden Island

March 2002

- 22 Tiger sharks kill baby humpback, Honolulu Advertiser
- 17 He Came, They Came, The Garden Island Newspaper
- 16 Fifth graders meet Jean Michel Cousteau, Honolulu Advertiser, Local TV news coverage
- 12 Jean Michel Cousteau coming to Hawai'i: Explorer to join whale sanctuary celebration, Honolulu Advertiser
- 12 Jean-Michel Cousteau to speak at Kilauea, The Garden Island
- 10 Kauai Ocean Fair explores Pacific life, Honolulu Star-Bulletin
- 8 Watching for Whales, Early Risers await immense animals, Honolulu Advertiser
- 8 Lookouts your best viewing option, Honolulu Advertiser

Upcoming events and dates

- April 9 thru 19, 2002 NWHI Public Scoping Meetings
- May 1 thru 21, 2002 Humpback Whale Sanctuary Management Plan Review Public Meetings.
- May 13 and 14, 2002 Ocean Commission meets in Hawaii.

Attachment 3

April 1, 2002

MEMORANDUM

To: Sanctuary Advisory Council, Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary

From: Jeff Walters, Sanctuary Co-Manager

Subject: Update from the Sanctuary Co-Manager for the period January 4, 2002 through April 1, 2002 (Prepared for the April 9, 2002 Council meeting)

Management Plan Revision

The draft revised Sanctuary management plan was released for public review on March 25, 2002. A public meeting schedule for meetings on all major islands in May has been released. SAC subcommittees on conservation and research met in March to make comments and recommendations regarding the draft plan. The education subcommittee is scheduled to meet to discuss the plan on April 3, 2002.

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Board of Trustees passed a motion on Wednesday, March 20, 2002, endorsing reauthorization of the Sanctuary. Sanctuary Hawaiian Cultural Educator, Ms. Joylynn Oliveira, spoke eloquently to the Board on the cultural significance and value of the Sanctuary. Acting Sanctuary Manager, Ms. Naomi McIntosh, helped clarify some questions regarding regulations and access, and Mr. Jerry Norris, OHA's Federal Desk Officer and SAC member representing OHA, was also instrumental in helping the Board see the true benefits of the Sanctuary. During discussion of the motion, Trustee Collette Machado made a point of saying how impressed she was with the Sanctuary's education and outreach activities.

On March 22, the Hawaii State House committee on Water and Land Use recommended that the measure supporting reauthorization of the HIWHNMS (HR38 and companion HCR69) be passed with minor amendments. The votes were as follows: 8 Ayes: Representative(s) Kanoho, Hale, Morita, B. Oshiro, Bukoski, Jaffe, Meyer, Thielen; Ayes with reservations: none; 0 Noes: none; and 2 Excused: Representative(s) Ito, Schatz. Next stop - the Finance Committee, no hearing date set yet. The amendments were minor technical changes recommended by DLNR.

At least one significant error in the draft revised plan has been discovered thus far – the section on boundaries on page 19 erroneously states that all the waters out to 100 fathoms around the Big Island are included in the Sanctuary. This should read waters out to 100 fathoms from Keahole Pt to Upolu Pt. This will be corrected in the final version of the plan. Thanks to SAC member Jack Laufer for spotting this.

Humpback Whale Research Permits

A total of 10 state permits for “take” of humpbacks for scientific purposes have been issued this year.

DLNR Permit No.	Principal Investigator(s)	Activity
SH2002-01	Salden	Close approach, photography
SH2002-02	Herman and Pack	Close approach, photography, videogrammetry
SH2002-03	Green and Zoidis	Close approach, photography
SH2002-04	Sekiguchi	Close approach, photography, biopsy darting
SH2002-05	Baird, Gorgone, and Webster	Close approach, photography, biopsy darting, suction cup tags
SH2002-06	Darling	Close approach, photography
SH2002-07	Cartwright	Close approach, photography
SH2002-08	Glockner-Ferrari and Ferrai	Close approach, photography
SH2002-09	Mobley	Close aerial approach, aerial photography
SH2002-10	Mattila	Close approach, photography, biopsy darting

Education and Outreach

The special 16 page, full color section of the *Honolulu Advertiser* about the Sanctuary, entitled “Hawaii’s Humpbacks,” was distributed on February 19, 2002. Thanks to all the SAC members who contributed to this remarkable product. SAC member, Patty Miller, was particularly helpful in developing various pages and in getting the piece delivered to schools all over the state. State staff were also active in supporting the visit of Jean Michel Cousteau to Aliamanu Elementary School on March 15, 2002, where he presented an award to the Oahu winners of the Sanctuary slogan contest. SAC member Patty Miller was also quite helpful in facilitating this event. The winning slogan was, “See a tail, save the whale!”

Sanctuary Involvement in Protected Species Stranding Response

Research and Rescue Coordinator, David Mattila has been active in responding to various stranding events, including at least 2 entangled whales and 2 abandoned calves. On 2/4/02, the state was issued a letter from NOAA Fisheries stating that DLNR personnel were authorized under Section 109(h) of the MMPA to “take” non-ESA-listed marine mammals in the course of responding to a stranding incident. Authorization for “take” of stranded ESA-listed marine mammals will remain on a case-by-case basis until the state has submitted names and background information on personnel to be considered by NOAA Fisheries for written approval. The co-manager has met on several occasions with state and federal personnel over the past 3 months to discuss these matters and additional activities to improve stranding response statewide. State Division of Aquatics personnel also attended the meeting facilitated with researchers by David Mattila to discuss the scientific value of whale carcass recovery and necropsy held on April 1, 2002, on Maui.

Other Activities

- 1) 1/16/02 – Co-Manager attended meeting of the NWHI CRE Reserve Advisory Council.
- 2) 1/20/02 – Co-manager facilitated Ocean Count trainings at Kailua-Kona and Hilo, on Big Island.
- 3) 1/25/02 – Co-Manager attended Project Steering Committee meeting for new statewide “watchable wildlife” campaign and viewers guide. The leads on this project are UH Sea

- Grant and NOAA Fisheries, Permits and Documentation Division. The “watchable wildlife” guide would include whale watching sites and interpretive information.
- 4) 1/28/02 – Co-manager attended meeting with researchers at Lahaina, Maui, sponsored by NOAA Fisheries.
 - 5) 1/30/02 – Co-Manager met with Janet Whaley, National Coordinator for NOAA Fisheries Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Program and other state and federal personnel to discuss ways to enhance effectiveness of inter-agency responses to marine mammal strandings.
 - 6) 2/13/02 – Co-Manager attended a meeting with Sanctuary and DLNR staff on Maui regarding policy development for the new Sanctuary vessel (22’ SeaCat).
 - 7) 2/20/02 – Co-Manager and State Public Outreach Coordinator attended meeting with SAC members and other Sanctuary staff regarding facilitation training for Sanctuary management plan review.
 - 8) 3/4-5/02 – Co-Manager attended NOAA Fisheries Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery Plan Team Meeting as the state representative on the team.
 - 9) 3/5/02 – Co-Manager represented DLNR at meeting of the OHA Lands Committee where a motion supporting reauthorization of the Sanctuary was approved.
 - 10) 3/20/02 - Co-Manager represented DLNR at meeting of the OHA Board where a motion supporting reauthorization of the Sanctuary was approved (see section above)
 - 11) 3/22/02 – Co-Manager attended hearing of House Water and Land Use Committee regarding HR38 supporting Sanctuary reauthorization (see section above).
 - 12) 3/25/02 – Co-Manager attended meeting with Dr. William Hogarth, NOAA Fisheries Administrator, and various DLNR personnel to discuss opportunities for enhanced coordination on marine protected species conservation and protected areas management.
 - 13) The co-manager continued to work with DAR staff in developing an NMFS incidental take permit application for take of sea turtles associated with State-managed fisheries.
- cc: Gilbert S. Coloma-Agaran, DLNR Chairperson
William S. Devick, DLNR-DAR Administrator
Naomi McIntosh, Acting Sanctuary Manager

Attachment 4

Conservation Standing Committee Report

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

9 April 2002

The Conservation Standing Committee met on 8 January 2002. The following 2 items are attached to the Committee's report:

1. Recommendations on the draft Management Plan's Natural Resources Protection Plan.
2. Proposed SAC letter of support for House Resolution 38 and House Concurrent Resolution 69.

SAC Conservation Standing Committee Comments and Recommendations on the Natural Resources Protection Action Plans of the HIHWNMS Draft Management Plan, December 2001 version

Developed during video conference meeting held on March 12, 2002

Members present:

Eric Gilman – Chair
Walter Haas
Richard Poirier
Richard McCarty
Reginald White

Sanctuary staff present:

Christine Brammer (Oahu)
Claire Cappelle (Maui)
Carol Carey (Kauai)
Joylynn Oliveira (Maui)
Jeff Walters (Oahu)

1. The action plan should include (a) completion of a comprehensive assessment of threats faced by humpback whales while they are in Sanctuary waters, include threats to whale habitat in Sanctuary waters, and (b) identification of activities (e.g. adoption of independent Sanctuary regulations) to mitigate prioritized threats. The Committee recommends that these two items be included as additional outcomes in the list of outcomes and performance indicators under NRP Outcome 1 in the beginning of the action plan (page 1), and as additional activities in NRP-3 (page 41). These additions would emphasize the need for threat assessment and threat mitigation actions as a priority natural resource protection measure, above and beyond that currently described in the Research Action Plan. The language describing the threat assessment should identify currently suspected threats as examples, e.g. high-speed vessel traffic, proposed inter-island ferries.
2. The terms outcome and performance indicators should be revised to read “expected outcomes” and “expected performance indicators.”
3. All references to completion dates of outcomes, strategies and/or activities should be removed, except for things that are to be implemented within the 1st year. Many of the dates indicated in the current plan seem unrealistic and only set-up the program for apparent tardiness in plan implementation, and/or poor quality products in the rush to complete the goals on schedule.
4. The plan should be edited to make it more reader friendly, e.g. minimize repetition and use of bureaucratic terms.
5. In describing the strategies and activities, make sure relevant past and/or existing efforts are acknowledged. Avoid giving the impression that a proposed measure is new if work has been done on it previously.
6. Do not include the table and language about activity costs if costs only include staff time. This could be limiting if staff end up needing additional, outside assistance to complete all the activities.
7. Remove the words “on Maui” from NRP-4, Activity 1 (re enforcement support).
8. Include a new activity that would evaluate the effectiveness of all research and monitoring activities.
9. Proposed letter from SAC supporting House Resolution 38 and House Concurrent Resolution 69.

To: ???

___ April 2002

Subject: Testimony in support of HR38 and HCR69

The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council strongly supports House Resolution No. 38 and House Concurrent Resolution No. 69, which recommend reauthorization of the Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary by the Governor and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, urge Sanctuary managers to conduct a threat assessment, and commend the Sanctuary managers for exploring measures to address the threat of collisions between whales and marine vessels.

Nearly two thirds of the North Pacific population of humpback whales migrate each winter to breed, calve, and nurse newborns in Hawaii's coastal waters. The humpback whale is a federally listed endangered species with less than five percent of its original worldwide population remaining. The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary was established for the commendable purpose of protecting humpback whales and their habitat. The Sanctuary has made progress over its first five years, since being approved by the Governor of Hawaii in 1997, by building broad public support, supporting research and monitoring projects, raising public awareness, and supporting enforcement of other agency's relevant regulations.

The Sanctuary Advisory Council strongly supports the resolutions' call for Sanctuary managers to identify and address priority threats to whales and their habitat in Sanctuary waters, and the resolution's support for the Sanctuary System's planned vessel strike workshop. During development of the Sanctuary's original management plan, managers concluded that no additional independent regulations or restrictions were needed to accomplish the Sanctuary purpose of protecting humpback whales and their habitat in Hawaiian waters. The current February 2002 draft of the revised Sanctuary management plan does not identify plans for a threat assessment or management interventions to address priority threats. House Resolution 38 and House Concurrent Resolution 69 aptly identify this deficiency and urge managers to take steps to improve their planning and management to ensure protection of humpback whales while in Hawaii waters.

Assessing natural and anthropogenic threats to humpback whales and their habitat in Hawaii waters, identifying how each threat is currently being addressed, and identifying if managers need to take additional intervention measures to adequately abate each threat, enables managers to prioritize short and long-term objectives and actions, develop an effective strategic action plan, and meet the goal of the Sanctuary. The proposed House Resolutions appropriately call for such a threat assessment and for managers to then take necessary management interventions to address identified priority threats. This might require Sanctuary managers to promulgate independent Sanctuary regulations to address threats not addressed under other agency's rules, for example, to manage the threat of collisions between whales and high-speed marine vessels in Sanctuary waters.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on these two House Resolutions.

Sincerely,

James E. Coon
Chair

Attachment 5

**Sanctuary Advisory Council
Research Committee Report**

I. The Sanctuary Advisory Council Research Committee meeting was held on March 14, 2002.
Attending were:

David Mattila
Jeff Walters
Chris Brammer
Paul Nachtigall

Discussed items included:

Kona Blue Water Farms – Requested by Jim Coon
Sanctuary Research and Management Action Plan

1. The Kona Blue Water Farms, following the presentation at the last SAC meeting proposes to establish a fish aquaculture facility off of Keahole Point, Kona, Hawaii within the Sanctuary. They requested input on their plans and Chairman Koons referred it to Committee.

After listening to the proposal and re reading the draft excerpts from the proposed environmental assessment and the impending application for ocean lease, attendees of the meeting had the following comments.

a. There is not a lot of data about entangled whales around Hawaii. Perhaps more care should be given to examination of the potential analogous situations in the Northeast U.S. where generally it has been found that.. "Any fixed gear is a potential threat to whales".

b. There was a similar but submerged fish farm off Waianae – were there any problems with whales? Was the site monitored?

c. In regard to Acoustic Deterrents – Would the proposed deterrent sounds be alerting or “driving” the animals away. Should we really be driving animals out of their protected Sanctuary? Have the proposers considered other non-sanctuary waters?

d. Nine acres and a 600 foot barrier is not much of the Pacific Ocean – but it may be a critical part of the Kona space for breeding whales. Has anyone done a study of how much this area is used by whales?

e. If Pearl Lines are hung from the pens it will decrease the pollutants from the fish wastes but it might also increase the possibility of entanglement of whales.

f. We agree with the statement that .. "Risk of entanglement by whales in the mooring lines or net pen mesh warrants further examination" as stated in the proposers draft environmental assessment.

g. The proposed area has a Sandy bottom. Sandy Bottomed areas are usually resting places for spinner dolphins. Has anyone assessed the use of this area by Spinner dolphins?

- h. When the pilot project was done for this work in Waianae, the cages were well below the surface- these are partially above the surface. Why is there a difference?
- i. Taut lines have the potential for becoming loose and causing entanglement.
- j. Have the proposers researched the total literature of aquaculture in marine mammal habitats to see what other sort of issues have been raised?

II. Comments on the Management Plans:

- a. Lou Herman was concerned that section RM-2 Activity A could possibly be interpreted as an open invitation to conduct all kinds of noise studies on humpback whales in Hawaii including some with possible deleterious effects.

We suggest that the following sentence be added to Section RM-2 at the end of the first Strategy Summary paragraph on the same page: "Any research project with potential for deleterious effects on the humpback whales will be reviewed by the National Marine Fisheries Service's permit application process and further reviewed by the Sanctuary".

- b. Carl Berg was very concerned about the ecology of the whole sanctuary and felt that "nowhere does the plan present any real plan for monitoring ecological conditions!"

The members present felt that while a whole ecosystem sanctuary representing all species might be a good thing at some future date, the whole ecology of the Hawaiian Islands marine environment might be more than this humpback whale sanctuary could reasonably be expected to manage with the current structure. Dr. Berg remains very concerned about the ecology of the whole sanctuary.

III. Additional members should be invited, from the SAC, to join this committee

IV. A meeting of concerned, permitted, humpback whale researchers was organized by David Mattila and held on Maui on April 1st at 3:30 p.m. The main topic of concern was the apparent increase in the number of distressed calves. Attendees included Naomi McIntosh, Marc Lammers (SAC research alternative), Paul Nachtigall and principals and assistants from five humpback whale permitted research groups: including the Center for Whale Research (Mark and Debbie Ferrari), the Hawaiian Whale Research Foundation (Dan Salden), the Kewalo Basin Marine Mammal Laboratory, the Dolphin Institute (Lou Herman and Adam Pack), and Rachael Cartright. A representative from the Marsha Green's group was also present. In addition, attending were Margaret Dupree of NOAA, and representatives from the U.S. Coast Guard and the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources. It was a very productive meeting in the sense that it brought the active researchers together to discuss a topic of mutual concern. The meeting lasted until 7:30 p.m. and included the following topics:

1. Review of recent mortalities – Mark Ferrari, Adam Pack and Lou Herman
2. What sort of reasonable samples can be taken from distressed live and potentially dead and stranded calves. – Discussion lead by Dan Salden
3. What is the scientific value of full carcass retrieval? – Bob Braun
4. What might usefully be retrieved from a floating carcass – Bob Braun?
5. Logistical considerations of full-carcass retrieval
6. Feasibility of rehabilitating an abandoned humpback whale calf – Louis Herman

This was a rapidly organized meeting to meet the concerns of the researchers. It was very important for establishing a mutual discussion on the apparent problem. It is the sort of thing that I believe the Sanctuary should, and did, play a key role in.

Attachment 6

Sanctuary Advisory Council Education Group Report April 4, 2002

Earlier this year the Education Group recommended action be taken to start an "Awareness Campaign" for the Sanctuary. We are very pleased to report that this has begun. The Advertiser insert was distributed into homes and 50,000 copies sent directly into classrooms. The response from the teachers and kids has been wonderful. The insert has been described as "very readable for kids and teacher friendly". A slogan contest was held with school kids. The slogan, "See a Tail, Save a Whale", graphically designed by the kids, has been selected. This will be printed up into items such as bumper stickers and bookmarks....

The Education Group held a video conference on April 3, topic of conversation was revisions to the Management Plan.

The following people participated:

Sac Ed group members:

Patty Miller, Cindy Knapman, Bill Lennan, Dick Porier, Walter Haas, Greg Kaufman

Sanctuary Staff members:

Naomi McIntosh, Jeff Walters, Chris Brammer, Claire Cappelle, Jean Sousa

Management Plan Review:

The group recommends the following suggestions for revisions to the management plan:

1. Develop a "first year" work plan based on the Management Plan. Eliminate all other time lines.
2. Include the statement (something similar to this): "The Management Plan is a living fluid document of what the Sanctuary hopes to do. The Management Plan needs to be continuously reviewed and adjusted as need be.
3. Include at the beginning of the document an update of what has been accomplished during the last five years.
4. Page 51: The shaded section, EO-I needs to read: Assess, Enhance, Modify and Implement Existing Education and Outreach Programs.
5. Page 51: Activity (c) under strategy EO-I to read: Provide opportunities for the public's participation in environmental sanctuary monitoring activities. (same wording to be used on page 52)
6. Top of page 53 should read: The programs discussed in this strategy will be designed to be integrated with the Sanctuary's Research and Monitoring Action Plan, with the intention of further strengthening linkages between research and monitoring and education and outreach programs of the sanctuary and sanctuary partners.
7. Page 57: Activity B: Develop and implement a strategic plan which includes new and existing outreach programs.

8. Top of page 57: EO-2 to read: Develop and Implement New Education and Outreach Programs.
9. Page 59: Third sentence of the paragraph under Activity (A) to read: Expand current opportunities for volunteers including those offered at the Maui
10. Page 59: Paragraph under Activity (B) to read..In consultation and coordination with NMSP headquarters and the national Team Ocean volunteer coordinator, the Sanctuary will produce a handbook for volunteers.
11. All "Partner" lists should be generic.

The Naturalist Training

The naturalist training idea has been discussed by the Ed Group via e-mail. I (Patty Miller) wanted to see a recommendation come out of the Ed group before it goes to a Ed working group. Below is what is suggested.

A recommendation that the Sanctuary NOT conduct naturalist training programs but instead support existing naturalist programs by offering the following:

- Provide Sanctuary developed materials about the humpback whales and the sanctuary to organizations providing public programs. This would include printed materials and a video of whale behaviors.
- Invite naturalists to participate in educator's workshops.

The Education group has prioritized projects a couple of times and never has a naturalist training been one of the main priorities. The above proposed ideas would also be things that could support the development of Sanctuary curriculum and teacher workshop sessions that have been recommended and are also listed as major focuses in the Management plan.

Attachment 7

**TO: SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL, HAWAIIAN ISLANDS
 HUMPBACK WHALE NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY**

FROM: BILL FREIDL, HONOLULU COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE

**SUBJECT: OAHU COUNTY REPORT FOR JANUARY 16, 2002 THROUGH
 APRIL 8, 2002**

OCEAN COUNT

The 6th Annual Sanctuary Ocean Count was held on January 26, February 23, and March 30 on the islands of Oahu, Kauai and the Big Island. Oahu Sanctuary staff and interns coordinated the Counts on Oahu and the Big Island. In preparation for the Counts, site leader training was conducted on Oahu on January 9th and 12th, and on the Big Island on January 20th, in both Kona and Hilo. This was the first year that the Count took place on more than one date and this was also the first year that the Oahu office officially coordinated the Counts on the Big Island. The Ocean Count project was a successful outreach activity that attracted a large amount of media attention. Over 2000 volunteers registered to participate. Science & Technology International also participated by conducting an aerial survey around a portion of Oahu's shoreline. Daniela Maldini of the Alaska Sea Life Center will be analyzing the data and providing a summary report to the Sanctuary by this summer.

WHALE WATCH

Joylynn Oliveria and Christine Brammer participated in an educational whale watch on the Navatek with 100 students from Farrington High School. The students that were in attendance were either enrolled in a marine science class or in a travel and tourism class.

SCHOOL VISIT

Joylynn Oliveira and Christine Brammer visited the fourth grade at Waimalu Elementary School to teach about humpback whales and the Hawaii Sanctuary. The children became interested in the Sanctuary and humpback whales when they received the newspaper insert on "Hawaii's Humpback Whales". The following week the school participated in a whale watch on the Navatek.

WHALE WATCH WITH SLOGAN WINNER

Christine Brammer and Patty Miller participated in a Sanctuary-sponsored whale watch on the Navatek with the winners of the Sanctuary slogan contest. The winning slogan by Laura Fukumoto's 5th grade class at Aliamanu Elementary was "See a Tail...Save the Whale". The students also received a classroom visit from Jean Michel Cousteau two days after the whale watch.

MARINE CONSERVATION DAY

Marine Conservation Day will be held on April 6th at the Hawaii Kai Towne Center. Musical entertainment and educational displays and activities will be available at this event which is sponsored by the Sanctuary, the Hanauma Bay Education Program, and the Hawaii Environmental Education Association. Government and non-government agencies from the island of Oahu were invited to participate in the event.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

The Oahu office has been very busy this whale season. In addition to the activities listed above, the Oahu staff has assisted with coordinating the SAC (subcommittee meetings, facilitation training, and a whale watch for Oahu members). Also, the staff has been working hard to prepare for the management plan review meetings which will be held in May. Sanctuary Staff and interested SAC members attended facilitation training conducted by Anne Walton. Annie Reisewitz is now working in the Oahu office as the management plan coordinator. She has been working diligently to prepare for the meetings including completing the large task of mailing the draft management plan documents. Oahu staff member Christine Brammer, and University of Hawaii interns, Carey Morishige and Kristina Elson, traveled to the Family Ocean Fair on Kauai to provide staff support to Jean Souza. Overall, it has been a very productive whale season.

Attachment 8

Kaua'i Report for April 9, 2002
By Walter Haas

Sanctuary Ocean Count

This year's count on Kaua'i was held at 14 shore-based sites, which were staffed by 150 volunteers over the 3-month period. A training session for all volunteers and site leaders was conducted on January 12 by Jean Souza and research contractor Daniela Maldini. In preparation for a large turnout, the training session was held at King Kaumualii Elementary School Cafeteria. The school provided the use of the facilities and equipment at no charge.

The number of sightings was greatest during the February count. The humpback whale population off Kaua'i peaked prior to the last count on March 30. On March 30, site leaders reported that the whales were further offshore than on previous counts, and that none of the whales were sighted in the highly turbid nearshore waters caused by runoff during recent thunderstorms. The data is currently being analyzed by Daniela.

Kaua'i Family Ocean Fair

The 5th annual fair sponsored by the Sanctuary opened under clear and sunny skies, featuring an illustrated talk by underwater explorer and filmmaker Jean-Michel Cousteau (on the Board of Directors of the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation). National Marine Sanctuary Foundation Executive Director Lori Arguelles introduced Jean-Michel and provided brief remarks. Autographed posters (Robert Lyn Nelson's "From Sea to Shining Sea" poster) were sold to benefit the NMS Foundation and the Hawaii sanctuary. Approximately 14 exhibitors participated in the fair; over 60 community volunteers helped the sanctuary and refuge staffs. The Sanctuary Lecture Series featured Dave Mattila ("All About Atlantic Humpback Whales" and "Whale Disentanglements: What Do We Do? What Do We Know?"), NMSP Research Coordinator Dr. Steve Gittings ("The Last Buffalo Hunt") and NWHICRER's Andy Collins ("Coral Reef Ecosystems of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands"). The educators workshop on "More Tools for Teaching about Humpback Whales and Seabirds" attracted about 20 educators from Kauai and elsewhere. Musical entertainment included 'Ohi'a Productions' "In the Clear Blue Sea", Hawaiian music by Kaua'i Aloha Serenaders, and slack key guitar by Frank Frazier. . An islandwide storm halfway through the fair led to a reduced turnout. Attendance was about 1,500. The fair is listed on at least 10 websites. Pre- and post-fair media coverage was excellent with a Honolulu Star-Bulletin full-page article, numerous The Garden Island newspaper articles and photos, and radio spots and live radio interviews with Jean and Jean-Michel.

Co-sponsors of the fair were Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the Kilauea Point Natural History Association.

Upcoming Events

In April, the staff has been invited to conduct a one-hour training session on humpback whales for the volunteers at Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge. The sanctuary staff has been invited to participate in three community events in May (see sanctuary calendar of events).

Attachment 9

TO: Sanctuary Advisory Council

FROM: Richard McCarty, Maui County Liaison

SUBJECT: Maui County Report
January 16th - April 8, 2002

Education Center

The Education Center on Maui continues to surpass attendance expectations for individual visitors and school groups. See attached graphs.

Lecture Series-

January – "The Golden Age of Whaling" - 95 pax

February – "Whale Rescue – The Freeing of Entangled Whales"- 91 pax

March – "The Keiki Kohola Project – Caring For Humpback Calves in Maui Waters - 70 pax

March – "The Last Buffalo Hunt" – 15 pax

Whale Discovery School Whale Watches

Six (6) schools participated in our annual Whale Discovery Whale Watches this whale season. This partnership between the sanctuary and Windjammer Cruises Maui is in its third successful year. Windjammer provides free seats for 22 students and 2 adults aboard their whale watch, while the sanctuary staff and/or volunteers accompany the students to. Students were required to submit a short essay titled "Why Should My Group be Chosen to Participate in Whale Discovery 2002?" Once aboard the whale watch, sanctuary staff/volunteers take the opportunity to educate the students about the sanctuary and its resources including the humpback whale. Fun activities and educational outreach tools are used to help interpret the humpback whale and its winter habitat.

Renovation of Main Building

Maui office continues to be under siege by construction. The rough carpentry work is complete including the construction of a conference room on the 1st floor. The painter will begin work the 1st week of April, followed by installation of carpet on the 1st and 2nd floors and construction of work stations.

An integrated electrical and communication network system will be completed in the next two months. This system will be a welcome relief from the ad hoc placements of outlets and communication lines that currently decorate the building.

Education Center Exhibits

The sanctuary continues to coordinate the development of new educational displays for the Education Center. The contract was awarded to Lyons Zarembo, Inc. who will be coming to Maui in the next few months to begin design work. Once we have the dates for their visit, we will convene a meeting/workshop with the SAC Education Group to solicit ate your kokua.



‘Ao‘ao O Nā Loko I‘a O Maui

Papa Jim Grabs RSVP Award

Papa Jim, sanctuary volunteer, has traveled to the mainland to be with family during his illness. He was diagnosed with cancer last year. As many of you may recall, Papa Jim was honored in August for his work as a volunteer at the sanctuary under the Retired Senior Volunteer Program. Papa Jim put in an unprecedented 1,036 hours at the Maui site greeting visitors and entertaining schoolchildren with his knowledge and love of the ocean and its inhabitants.

We can not begin to express what he brought to our site nor how much we shall miss him.

The Loko I'a organization has been quite active. The sanctuary is moving ahead with the final agreement and the association is now headquartered in their new office. As a result, additional people are visiting the sanctuary facilities as well. Combined efforts have also resulted in great increases in additional visitors for the educational programs. The permitting process for the restoration of the pond is proceeding according to schedule, and the overall project is rapidly gaining momentum as public awareness and support increases.

45 Ton Talks

This program at the Sanctuary started on March 5th, with subsequent meetings every Tuesday at 11 a.m. Presenters share information concerning Humpback Whales with the guests and invite their questions. They also discuss recent developments and news items in an effort to keep the visitors up to date on local happenings.